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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/050,651	01/14/2002	Brendan P. Gallagher	P871 US	6007

28390 7590 03/01/2004

MEDTRONIC AVE, INC.
3576 UNOCAL PLACE
SANTA ROSA, CA 95403

EXAMINER

BAXTER, JESSICA R

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3731

DATE MAILED: 03/01/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/050,651

Applicant(s)

GALLAGHER ET AL.

Examiner

Jessica R Baxter

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 May 2002 and 07 July 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 4.6.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

2. Claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by WO 01/34240 to Hancock et al.

Regarding claim 1, Hancock discloses a vascular catheter comprising: An elongated tubular member (member 148) with a proximal shaft portion and a distal shaft portion, the distal shaft section has a first stiffness (page 21 lines 15-26); An intravascular device on the distal shaft portion (stent 34, member 28), the distal shaft section has a second stiffness at the intravascular device position; and A transition member on the distal shaft portion bridging the first stiffness and second stiffness (sleeves 163 and 166).

Regarding claim 2, Hancock discloses that the transition member comprises a tubular member (sleeves 163 and 166).

Regarding claim 3, Hancock discloses that the transition member is positioned on the distal shaft section on at least one side of the intravascular device (FIG. 6B).

Regarding claim 4, Hancock discloses that the transition member is positioned on the distal shaft section on both sides of the intravascular device (FIG. 6B).

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Regarding claim 5, Hancock discloses that the transition member comprises a radiopaque marker (Page 22 lines 18-25).

Regarding claim 6, Hancock discloses a vascular catheter for performing vascular procedures, the vascular catheter comprising: An elongated shaft having an elongated inner shaft (member 148), an elongated outer shaft (shaft 13) coaxial with the inner shaft, a proximal shaft section and a distal shaft section; A means for performing a vascular procedure on the distal shaft section (stent 34); and A transition means on the distal shaft section adjacent the means for performing a vascular procedure (sleeves 163 and 166).

Regarding claim 7, Hancock discloses that the means for performing a vascular procedure is a stent delivery system (stent 34, member 28).

Regarding claim 8, Hancock discloses that the transition member is a sleeve on the inner shaft of the vascular catheter (sleeves 163 and 166).

Regarding claim 9, Hancock discloses that the transition member further comprises a radiopaque marker (Page 22 lines 18-25).

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

U.S. Patent No. 4,976,690 to Solar et al.

U.S. Patent No. 5,961,510 to Fugoso et al.

U.S. Patent No. 5,484,409 to Atkinson et al.

U.S. Patent No. 6,004,291 to Ressemann et al.

U.S. Patent No. 5,549,552 to Peters et al.

U.S. Patent No. 6,126,650 to Martinez et al.

U.S. Patent No. 5,743,876 to Swanson

U.S. Patent No. 6,475,209 to Larson et al.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jessica R Baxter whose telephone number is 703-305-4069. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30AM - 5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Milano can be reached on 703-308-2496. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Jessica R Baxter
Examiner
Art Unit 3731


jrb


MICHAEL J. MILANO
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3700